FAMILY LIFE

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THE PRIVATE WORLDS OF MEN AND WOMEN

In large and important areas of life, men and women have entirely different standards of value— or else they are not good specimens of their own sex. They do not speak the same language. Note, for instance, how often women use the adjective "little" as compared with its use by men. Sociologist James H. S. Bossard remarks, "This sex distinction is evident at every turn— in the words used, habits of exclamation, intensity of expression, and stock phrases, as well as the subjects discussed. The child learns early and is constantly reminded that there is prestige in learning the sex-appropriate forms of expression."

In short, boys and girls spend the first 10 or 15 years of their lives in relatively distinct social worlds. In marriage these two worlds have to be fused, in part, and much of the difficulty in marital adjustment grows out of the difficulty of this fusion, and frequent failure in it. This point is developed in sociologist E. E. LeMasters' new college textbook, *Modern courtship and marriage,* more fully than in any other recent treatise.

Not only are there almost entirely different sexual worlds for males and females in our culture, Dr. LeMasters insists, but there are many male worlds into which a female can hardly enter. What he calls tavern society is basically a male world,— the world of the Elks, Moose, Masons, American Legion and other veterans' organizations, of the luncheon clubs, athletic clubs, hunting clubs, and the like. "It is unwise for women approaching marriage to conclude that male society is now completely open to them, or to condemn their husbands for wanting to participate in the man's world, as he has been accustomed to doing since he can remember."

Hardly any women have a realistic understanding of what it means to participate for several years in the armed forces, as most men have done. The world of sports participation is foreign to women, and so on. The world of business, into which so many millions of women have now entered, is still essentially a man's world, and such an expression as "Business is business" is as foreign to women's basic way of thinking as the expression, "I haven't a thing to wear" is foreign to men's.

Now, how can a wife adjust hereself to these facts? First, says Dr. Le

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Masters, by respecting the man's world and realizing that she can never be fully admitted to it; then by a determination to understand it as far as she can; and finally by accepting the way of life of *her own* sex instead of trying to repudiate it and make an imitation man out of herself (Alfred Adler's *masculine protest),* an ambition in which she can never succeed.

On the other hand, men will have to try to understand (or accept resignedly if they can not understand) the separate world of women. This centers largely in clothes, and growing partly out of this is a difference in ideas about the value of money. It involves the matter of diet, which becomes an obsession with so many women. But there are many more deeply-rooted differences, associated with the constitutional differences between the sexes. "The average wife seems to need a good cry every so often," Dr. LeMasters observes; and the husband need not necessarily feel like a guilty brute to think that he has precipitated these tears.

Religion means more to women than to men. So do children: "married couples sometimes develop basic conflicts related to this intense preoccupation of the mother with her children. The husband with his outside work and interests may feel that his wife is becoming a slave to the children, which to some extent she usually is. The wife, on the other hand, may decide that her husband isn't interested in the children." It is useless for a woman to ask a potential husband whether he likes children, the author insists; of course he does,— if he doesn't have to take care of them. There is, he admits, a "marginal man" who has been domesticated. He is not a full-fledged member of the Male Society, but prefers to enjoy his leisure with his wife. He will spend his spare time tinkering around the house. If he goes hunting or fishing, he may take his wife with him. Such men, the author asserts, "may not scale the heights of economic success as well as their more masculine brothers, but for many women they make ideal husbands."

Excessive use of alcohol is more a masculine than a feminine pattern in our society, and men should remember that habits which "the gang" may tolerate, will be offensive to their wives. But some other supposed differences do not appeal to Dr. LeMasters as being well-founded. He doubts if wives have any more tendency to worry than do their husbands nowadays, nor that they have as much greater craving for security as is commonly imputed to them. But he thinks there is an important difference in their attitudes toward their own background families, which may be the cause of much conflict in marriage. Men are largely emancipated from their fathers and mothers, while women are always daughters who remain closer to their parents. There is certainly some truth in this; on the other hand several recent studies have pointed to the boy, overprotected by "Mom," as a serious source of difficulty in marriage.

Summarizing, Dr. LeMasters argues that it is important for each sex to accept the other as a distinct social

group, and to recognize its right to be different.

One-third of his book is given over to a discussion of courtship, more extensive than the treatment in any other recent college textbook. He also discusses the financial side of marriage rather fully. There is a formal sociological framework in the early chapters, which does not detract seriously from the volume's readability.

(MODERN COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE, by E. E. LeMasters (Beloit College). Pp. 619, price $5.25 from the MacMillan Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1957.)

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Inexpensive Pamphlets

FOOD FACTS TALK BACK, Pp. 32, price 50c from American Dietetic Assn., 620 N. Michigan ave., Chicago 11, Ill. Debunking 121 popular misconceptions about nutrition.

ABOUT KINDERGARTENS, free on request to Natl. Kindergarten Assn., 8 W. 40th st., New York, N.Y. — Help for those who want to get kindergartens started in their own communities.

YOUR CHILD'S SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, by Edith G. Neisser. Pp.28, price 25c from Public Affairs Pamphlets, 22 E. 38th st., New York 16, N.Y.

FOSTER CARE, 1956. Child Welfare Reports No. 8, 1957, pp. 26, free on on request of Children's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D.C.

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Educational Notes

HELP for physically handicapped women, in simplifying their work, is offered by the School of Home Economics of the University of Connecticut (Storrs, Conn.) A 16 mm. sound film on child care is already available for rental, and other teaching materials, promised soon, will deal with clothing.

GOOD PROGRAMS for children, on TV and radio, have decreased in number by 20% during the past year, according to the annual survey of the Natl. Assn. for Better Radio and Television (882 Victoria ave., Los Angeles 5, Calif.)

ABOUT 80% of the elementary schools in the U.S.A. do not include kindergarten facilities, according to recent survey.

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AGING IN THE MODERN WORLD is the title of a study-discussion program prepared by the Division of Gerontology of the University of Michigan (1510 Rackham Bldg., Ann Arbor, Mich.) Developed particularly for men and women 35 years of age and older, it has been found well-adapted to small groups. Specimen set consisting of *A Handbook for Group Members,* the *Book of Readings,* and the *Guidebook for Leaders,* sells for $3. There are also a recording, several films, and an exhibit and brochures.

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DIVORCE "runs in the family," according to sociologist Judson T. Landis, who studied parents, grandparents, and other close relatives of 1,977 single children. If neither grandparent had been divorced there was one divorce to every 6.8 marriages in the offspring of the grandparents. If one grandparent had been divorced the ratio was one to 4.2, while if both grandparental families had divorced or separated the ratio of the next generation was one divorce to every 2.6 marriages. (*Social Forces,* March, 1956.)

HELPING FAMILIES THROUGH THE CHURCH

More vigorous effort of the local church to strengthen family life in its own community, is demanded and blueprinted by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church in a comprehensive new book based on the thinking of more than 400 church leaders in 10 family life workshops. "We must help the present generation to look upon parenthood as the highest vocation, a career to be pursued with honor and fulfilled with success," says Oscar E. Feucht, secretary of adult education for that church, and editor of the present book. To tie church, family, and community together, a 10-point program is discussed in detail:

1. Thorough Christian indoctrination for young and old.

2. Helping people establish and enrich family worship.

3. Home visitation that helps to raise the standard of families.

4. A practical program of service, especially to new families when they move into the parish and to parents after the birth of a child.

5. Using your child, youth, and adult classes and groups to train for Christian family living.

6. Premarital and postmarital counseling.

7. A practical program of parent guidance and greater home-church cooperation.

8. Helping young married couples and helping the aging family.

9. Making literature available and accessible.

10. Using Christian Family Week to evaluate and strengthen the program.

Several chapters are given over to a discussion of the nature of the Christian home, in the light of Biblical teaching, to the situation of the American family today, and the special difficulties it faces, together with the inadequate measures taken by the church to help. Measures are outlined to make the church program more family-centered, including the establishment of nursery departments. Several other chapters go fully into ways in which parents can be given the assistance they need to deal with their own growing children. Then the importance of pre-marital counseling is emphasized.

"Pastors who, during the first decades of their ministry, were content to shake the hands of bride and groom and wish them God's blessings for a happy married life, are today reading books, hearing lectures, attending family-life institutes and workshops in an earnest endeavor to learn how to offer premarital counseling helpfully," says Otto A. Geiseman. Apart from spiritual guidance, he thinks the pastor should be prepared to offer the young couple definite help in organizing the economic side of their home, in dealing with in-laws, in learning how to handle conflicts, and in giving a sound education concerning the place of sex in marriage. "Reformers, ascetics, and purists have distorted God's teaching, and have done great harm to marriage itself," Dr. Feucht points out in an earlier chapter. Sex as planned by God is good and intended for good — it is God's own plan for man's happiness and for the fulfilment of one of man's purposes on earth — God made man and woman for each other. Their bodies, their minds, and their temperaments are to complement one another. The love of husband and wife is as

normal as eating, working, sleeping, and playing." Both husband and wife should be made to see very clearly, during the premarital counseling, that they should be genuinely interested in each other's happiness also from the sexual point of view, says Dr. Geiseman.

In a chapter on preventing divorce Dr. Feucht argues that "the Christian minister holds the key." He demands that the church be more concrete and practical in its program of instruction, weaving family-life education into every activity; and that marriage counseling services be set up either by a large church or by a number of smaller ones working together.

Detailed programs are offered for young adults (one of the most neglected groups in almost every congregation) and for the aged, who "should not be re-tired but re-treaded" for new activities and usefulness in proportion to their strength. There is a final check list of 50 things the church can do to strengthen family life, with good bibliographies.

Such an extensive and practical program from one of the largest (and in common opinion one of the most conservative) of the great Lutheran groups, is a graphic illustration of the extent to which a determination to strengthen family life is now finding expression in the religious world. It parallels the extensive programs of the Methodist church, of the Presbyterian church of the U.S.A., and of a score of other denominations, larger and smaller. If these programs find expression through the local church, and are matched by similar effective education in the public schools, the position of the family in America can be changed for the better in a very few years.

(HELPING FAMILIES THROUGH THE CHURCH, ed. by O. Feucht. Pp. 344 (no index), price $3.50 from Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson ave., St. Louis 18, Mo., 1957.)

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Research Notes

SUICIDE is the fifth most frequent cause of death in adolescents (ages 15 to 19) in the U.S. today. In most European countries the rate is even higher.

PERILS OF TWINS are pointed up in an Iowa study by M. Donnelly, who found that fetal deaths among them were nearly three times as high, neonatal deaths six times as high, as for single births.

MEDIAN DURATION of marriage for couples divorced in 1955 (in the U.S. registration area) was 6.4 years. Idaho showed the shortest median duration, 4.2 years, while the longest, 9.6 years, was in Delaware. June is not merely the favorite month for marriages, but also for divorces, the Census Bureau finds!

SINCE THE CLOSE of World War II the average income of American men has virtually doubled and was $3600 in 1956. Average income of women (1,100) has increased by only 27% in the same period, says the Bureau of the Census.

LESS THAN one percent of New York City's two million families produce more than 75% of its 35,000 juvenile delinquents, a recent Youth Board survey claims.

HUSBANDS who want to live comfortably with their wives should be stereotyped or comforming individuals, says psychologist Raymond J. Corsinix (Univ. of Chicago), but the marriage will not suffer if the wife is "not like other women."—husbands are apparently more tolerant. His study, publish-

ed in the *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology,* is based on only 20 couples, all university students.

CANCER has been studied in a series of twins over a period of 20 years by two German investigators, O. von Verschuer and E. Kober. They conclude that there is no general hereditary tendency toward the inheritance of cancer. Cancer of the stomach tends to be influenced by genetic factors to the extent that if one member of a family has it, other members are likely, if they have cancer at all, to have stomach cancer. There seems to be no such genetic influence in the appearance of cancer of the breast and cancer of the uterus. The general conclusion to be drawn from this careful study is that no one need be much concerned about the possibility of inheriting a tendency to cancer.

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The Retarded Child

Studying 2500 persons admitted to the Southbury, Conn., Training School for Mentally Retarded, medical director Herman Yannet concluded that only one in 10 owed the condition to injury at birth or later. This is in strong contrast to statements frequently published nowadays, that the great bulk of the retarded owe their condition to birth injury, childhood disease, and similar causes. Dr. Yannet decided that the largest proportion, 40%, had inherited genes that placed them at the lowest level of the normal distribution of intelligence. Their problem, according to the author, is mainly sociological. The second largest group, 35%, had suffered before birth from non-genetic conditions for which the causes have not yet been found. About 10% had suffered from prenatal conditions not definitely determined as genetic,—this group includes the mongoloids, whose defect is often associated with advanced age of mother. However, Dr. Yannet is one of those who think there is strong evidence to implicate heredity as well.—*Journal of Pediatrics, Feb.* 1957.

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Eccentric Marriage Rates

Extraordinary variation in marriage rates from state to state is noted in an over-all survey. Nevada has a rate well on to 40 times as high as Delaware, North Carolina, Oregon, California, or Alabama. This reflects mainly the large number of Californians who go to Reno or Las Vegas for their weddings. Mississippi and New Mexico also have extremely high marriage rates. For the nation as a whole, the total number of marriages annually seems to have become stabilized during the past few years. There is still great fluctuation, as usual, from month to month, June witnessing not far from twice as many marriages as January or March.—*Statistical Bulletin,* Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., May, 1957.

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HEREDO-RETINOPATHIA CONGENITALIS, by Carl Henry Alstron, in clinical collaboration with Olof Olson. Pp. 177, paper covers, reprint from *Hereditas* 43 (1957), Lund, Sweden.

Study of 175 cases of a hitherto unreported, hereditary form of congenital blindness or severe impairment of sight, which seems to be "a uniform condition, with a monohybrid, recessive, autosomal mode of inheritance and complete manifestation." It is responsible for about 10% of all cases of blindness in Sweden that reach school age.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

IF YOU ADOPT A CHILD, by Carl and Helen Doss; Pp. 368 (no index,) price $4.95 from Henry & Co., 383 Madison ave., New York 17, N.Y., 1957.

This volume comes very close to being what its subtitle promises: "A complete handbook for childless couples." It tells how to adopt a child, gives one-fourth of its space to problems arising after the child is in your home; and fills more than one-third of its total space with lists of adoption agencies in every state and territory, including those engaged in overseas relief who might possibly help you to get a child from a foreign country. Children born illegitimately to an American GI and an oriental girl would be suitable in many instances, the authors think. Unfortunately, foreign-born children have to come in on their country's immigration quota, which is likely to be over-subscribed for years ahead. Rev. Carl Doss and his wife have themselves adopted a dozen children, mostly of this mixed racial background, and Mrs. Doss has told the story of these in a previous book called *The family nobody wanted.*

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BATTLE FOR THE MIND, by William Sargant. Pp 263, price $4.50 from Doubleday & Co., 575 Madison ave., New York 22, N.Y., 1957.

Evangelists, psychiatrists, politicians, and Soviet "brain washers" all use much the same methods, says Dr. Sargant, a well-known British psychiatrist; and these methods are explainable by Pavlov's work on the conditioned reflex. He outlines the latter briefly, then goes on to consider its practical applications as above stated, with a chapter showing that the ancients made use of much the same principles in connection with the Greek Mysteries and with treatment of mental cases. Dr. Sargant asserts that psychoanalysis and "deep therapy" are sometimes based on much the same principles as Communist brain-washing, the therapist suggesting to the patient what he is expected to believe, and then having the patient then repeat this back to him. Readers of the book will probably become very cautious about selecting the right psychiatrist, if they need help in the future! This is a serious book, absorbingly interesting, and far-reaching in its implications.

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EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, by I. Pavlov. Pp. 653 (no index), price $7.50 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York 16, N.Y., 1957.

This anthology of writings by the great Russian experimentalist presents the ordinary scientific reader with material of which he has hitherto had only the vaguest knowledge. Since much of it was first published half a century or more ago, it has mainly historical value today. But it ought to be known, because psychology in the Soviet Union is founded largely on Pavlov's researches and explicitly condemns Freud, who is much more influential on this continent. There is an interesting account of Pavlov's life and influence.

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THE CHILD WITHIN THE GROUP, an experiment in self-government, by Marion E. Turner. Pp. 93 (no index),

price $3.00 from Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1957.

Account of an experiment carried out more than 35 years ago in a small class in a private school, where the children (ungraded, but largely in the kindergarten and primary levels) were allowed to govern their own behavior by democratic processes. Most of the book consists of verbatim reports of conversation. The experiment was more successful than most parents would expect, and offers valuable suggestions for the development of self-control in small children. Miss Turner was later organizer and director of the Public Child Care Centers in San Francisco.

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THE MOON IS FULL, by "Aileen Adair." Pp. 200 (no index), price $4.75 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York 16, N.Y., 1957.

Printed in Great Britain, this semi-fictional "report on lunacy" gives an unpleasant picture of life in some English mental hospitals, as seen by a woman psychiatrist who broke down under the strain.

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YOUTH AND CRIME, proceedings of the Law Enforcement Institute held at New York University, ed. by Frank J. Cohen. Pp. 272, price $6 from International Universities Press, 227 W. 13th st., New York 11, N.Y., 1957.

Two dozen papers presented by recognized authorities.

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MORE POWER TO YOU, by John and Dorathea Crawford. Pp.144 (no index,) price $2.50 from Muhlenberg Press, 1228 Spruce st., Philadelphia 7, Pa., 1957.

A well-known husband-and-wife team of writers attempt the difficult task of giving teen-agers practical suggestions about their problems, in their own language, and based largely on quizzzes and self-rating tests. Daily use of it with a good many young readers would be necessary, in order to determine how acceptable and useful it will be to the rather critical group at which they are aiming. Dr. Crawford is supervisor of psychological services in Lawrence and Venango County schools in western Pennsylvania.

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MIND, MATTER, AND MORALS, by Arthur E. Meyer. Pp. 192 (no index), price $3.50 from the American Press, 489 Fifth ave., New York 17, N.Y., 1957.

A German-born physiologist, who has lived in the U.S.A. for the past 30 years, and is now in semi-retirement in Texas, offers the conclusions of a lifetime of thought and research.

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THE CONQUEST OF LONELINESS, by Eric P. Mosse. Pp. 241 (no index), price $3.75 from Random House, 475 Madison ave. New York 22, N.Y.,. 1957.

Loneliness seems to Dr. Mosse to be a characteristic and inescapable malady of modern man. It masquerades behind all kinds of symptoms; it disguises itself in all kinds of devious ways. Open or concealed, it lies at the root of most of the errors and miseries that afflict us. His thoughtful and readable discussion of the defense mechanisms and possible solutions of the problem ends with a chapter on "Sex, love, and redemption." "The benign psychosis of love is the main support over the black river of loneliness," he asserts. "Few have grasped the key experience of life: he who gives more, gets more . . . This is where sex comes in— not the

other way around. One cannot begin with the end. The man or woman who walks out of his door looking for sexual adventure will easily find a partner who, after the usual ascent through a movie, a meal, a dance, and a few drinks at a bar, will provide the desired 'pleasure.' But after the event, both will be left with disgust and nothingness. Sex can be easily, quickly, and impatiently consumed. Love takes time. It has to grow and unfold slowly— like everything that is a part of life . . Love, in the final analysis, is an attitude, a general approach to the world that surrounds us . . . It asks for the abandonment of primitive hate, murder, and aggression and promises as a reward the suspension of anxiety, loneliness, and isolation." Dr. Mosse was born and studied medicine in Germany, came to the United States a quarter of a century ago, is a practising psychoanalyst in New York City, but has also given much of his life to a literary career.

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FROM STERILITY TO FERTILITY, by Elliot E. Philipp. Pp. 120 (no index,) price $4.75 from Philosophical Library, 15 E. 40th st., New York 16, N.Y., 1957.

Printed in Great Britain, this is the work of a London gynecologist and surgeon who offers a popular discussion of an important subject.

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THE MENTALLY ILL CHILD, a guide for parents, by Steven B. Getz and Elizabeth Lodge Rees. Pp. 88, price $3.50 from Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1957.

Practical and sympathetic discussion of diagnosis, home care, and selection of a suitable facility if the child cannot be kept at a home; together with a bibliography. Dr. Getz is psychologist at the Berkeley, Calif., state school for the deaf; Dr. Rees is a pediatrician in Hayward, Calif.

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BROOMS, BUTTONS, AND BEAUX, by Emily R. Dow. Pp. 189, price $2.95 from M. Barrows & Co., 425 Fourth ave., New York 16, N.Y., 1957.

Described as "a world of facts for girls in their teens," this book discusses not merely etiquet and grooming, but home-making, interior decoration, and the like, all at the level of the adolescent. Mrs. Dow, who lives with her husband in Wellesley Hills, Mass., has previously written books for children. This one would be a useful gift to any girl in junior or senior high school.

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SANCTITY AND SUCCESS IN MARRIAGE, ed. Irving A. De Blanc and Norma L. Schavilla. Pp. 323 (paper covers, no index), price $2.50 from Family Life Bureau, Natl. Catholic Welfare Conference, 1312 Massachusetts ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 1956.

Thirty selected papers from the 1956 National Catholic Conference on Family Life. Dr. De Blanc is director of the Family Life Bureau.

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HELPING YOURSELF WITH PSYCHIATRY, by Frank S. Caprio. Pp. 256, price $4.95 from Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1957.

Dr. Caprio is a Washington, D.C., psychiatrist and prolific writer on medical topics. This book is made up largely of articles he first published in popular magazines, and covers a wide range of subjects, with much good common sense and some foolish statements such as "Men also go through an equivalent of the female menopause."

PROGRESS IN PSYCHOTHERAPY, Vol. II, Anxiety and Therapy, ed. by Jules H. Masserman and J. L. Moreno. Pp. 264, price $7.50 from Grune & Stratton, 381 Fourth ave., New York 16, N. Y., 1957.

Directed primarily to professionals, this volume contains some 30 papers discussing the background of psychotherapy, its application in some problems of old age; then a review of progress in various "schools," and finally an interesting description of the status of psychotherapy in seven different foreign countries. J. L. Moreno complains in the introduction that religion, in an effort to bolster their declining influence, are making desperate efforts to grab and make use of the skills of psychotherapy. (Some other writers would assert that psychotherapists, in an effort to overcome their demonstrated low level of success, are desperately striving to grab everything useful that religion has to offer.) At the other end of the book J. H. Masserman complains in his summary that, taking only one small sector of the religious world, "however much we may deplore its tragic consequences in individual cases, it is nevertheless true that Christian Science, with over 3,000 active and highly proselytizing branches and societies in 46 different countries, every year gives some measure of refuge and comfort to many more millions of people than will be directly helped by all psychiatrists in the next half century." Pastoral counseling in other denominations will continue to grow, he is sure, so "without belaboring the point, it becomes evident that the sophisticated therapist truly devoted to his calling will not only accept man's mystic yearnings as an essential determinant of human behavior, but will utilize them as among his most effective media of therapy." Evidently there will be some strange bedfellows in the therapeutic population of the next generation! Rollo May protests against the use of drugs to relieve normal anxiety because, if they succeed, they wipe away the patient's opportunities for growth.

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THE THREE TALENTS, by Sydney Blackston. Pp. 93 (no index,) price $2.50 from Greenwich Book Publishers, 489 Fifth ave., New York 17, N.Y., 1957.

Miss Blackston, a journalist, thinks that people are born with one of three types of make-up: aesthetic extravert with dominant right eye, physical extravert with a dominant left, and introverts who are completely binocular. She offers no real evidence to support this generalization, but makes many interesting suggestions.

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EVERYONE NEEDS A WILL, by Esmond Schapiro. Pp. 47 (no index), price $2.00 from Vantage Press, 120 W. 31st st., New York 1, N.Y., 1957.

Practical advice from a San Francisco attorney,— overpriced, since it is really not much more than a pamphlet.

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SOCIOLOGY,with application to nursing and health education, by Francis J. Brown. Pp. 568, price $6.75 from Prentice-Hall, 70 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1957.

Textbook intended to illustrate the application of sociology to important areas of human relations. Dr. Brown is a staff associate of the American Council on Education.

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